

Newport Town Council  
Meeting minutes  
March 20, 2014

*Meeting was held at the Municipal Building while the Old Town Hall was being repaired.*

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Spencer called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and announced that the meeting was in compliance with the Delaware Open Meetings Act.

Attendance: Mayor Michael Spencer, Commissioner Kathy Joseph, Commissioner Michele MacDonald, Commissioner John Joswick, Town Manager Wendy King, Police Chief Michael Capriglione, Solicitor Stephen Robinson. Commissioner Tim Chatburn was absent.

Commissioner Joseph made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 20, 2014, meeting. Commissioner Joswick seconded.

There was no correspondence.

Town Manager King reviewed her report which included the phone system installation, no municipal election for 2014, Business Breakfast, Old Town Hall repairs, Verizon Wireless still onsite, meeting with DNREC about the boatramp and future meeting about the James Street Bridge reconstruction.

Council discussed further the boatramp and possible changes that DNREC may consider making. There will be more meetings about this in the months ahead.

Chief Capriglione reviewed his department statistics for February 2014. He advised that he has been in contact with NCC Police regarding the enforcement of trucks on E. Ayre Street. There is an issue with signage and whether those charges will hold up in court as previous cases that have gone to court have been dropped.

Alderman's Report – Fine collection for February was \$54,554. There was brief discussion about keeping court proceedings at the municipal building. Town Manager King would discuss with Court Clerk and Alderman.

Maintenance Report was submitted with no questions.

Solicitor Robinson advised of an inquiry by the Town Manager about a home occupation sale of firearms license inquiry. Code does allow as long as there is the understanding that people will not be visiting like it is a storefront. He also advised that he would arrange to have some of the town's files dropped off for storage.

Mayor Spencer said now that business licenses are being returned, it was time to approach those who were not in compliance.

Commissioner Joswick wanted to bring to council's attention the store across from Kukurukoo and the merchandise being left outside. Mayor Spencer said that unless it's blocking the sidewalk, there is not much that can be done. Commissioner Joswick also was curious about how the town could collect on people who damage town property. The insurance companies attempt subrogation for a limited time. Even if collection were to happen, insurance companies repay themselves first and the town would not see payment for several months or even years depending on what payment arrangements were made. Credit bureau flagging could be done if the town took the people to civil court.

Resident Kevin Haigh approached council about the possibility of the town reinstating an agreement with St. James Episcopal Church to have a park for the children with donated equipment from Bethany Baptist Church. The town is always open to suggestions or ideas, but liability is a huge factor and something to consider.

Commissioner Joswick made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Spencer seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.